

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 171013
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /049 R

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EA/RA - MR. CLEVELAND

-----038508 070107Z /61

P R 062350Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PEPR, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1979

REF: SEOUL 5808

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES INFORMATION ON STATUS OF
TABLE TENNIS "INVITATION" AND ROK PLANS TO PARTICIPATE
IN CHAMPIONSHIPS, IF POSSIBLE.

2. AS BEST WE CAN TELL, YOMIURI CORRESPONDENT CALLED
AT LEAST FOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND WROTE STORY
IN TYPICALLY SPECULATIVE STYLE, INCLUDING A LIBERAL
DOSE OF HIS OWN OPINIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS
ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD
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"PRESSURE" THE ROK TO ATTEND THE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
PYONGYANG. THIS LINE MAY HAVE CREPT INTO HIS STORY.

3. IN GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TOLD CORRESPONDENT
THAT U.S. FAVORS NORTH-SOUTH CONTACTS, BUT THAT IT WAS
NOT CLEAR THAT INVITATION HAD ACTUALLY COME FROM
PYONGYANG. IF INVITATION WAS BONA FIDE, IT WOULD BE THE

FIRST SUCH EVENT IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.

4. GIVEN FREE-WHEELING SPECULATIVE APPROACH OF YOMIURI'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT AND REPEATED PROBLEMS HIS STORIES ON KOREA HAVE GIVEN US, DEPARTMENT WILL USE PARTICULAR CAUTION IN RESPONDING TO HIS FUTURE KOREA INQUIRIES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE171013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FHMISCH:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780278-0434
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780788/aaaacwpu.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0177e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 5808
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2095539
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1979
TAGS: SCUL, PEPR, KN, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0177e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014